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GOLF FACILITIES
IN THE
UNITED STATES
1985

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I. INTRODUCTION

Over the past fifty years, the NGF has been keeping an up to date inventory of the nation's golf facilities.[1] Golf Facilities in the United States summarizes the information contained in our database of facilities. It provides complete information on the number, type, size and location of golf facilities.

This report replaces the 1984 Statistical Profile of Golf in the United States (ST-1). For those of you who are familiar with that document, you will notice that we have removed the sections dealing with number of golfers in the U.S. That information is now presented, in much greater detail, in a separate publication entitled Golf Participation in the United States.

Like its predecessor, Golf Facilities in the United States will be published annually in order to provide you with the most current information available. I would welcome any comments or suggestions you may have for future editions.

Thank you for your support.

Joseph F. Beditz, Ph.D.
Vice-President of Research
National Golf Foundation

II. GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT

A. Development Flourishes in 1985

New golf course development in America flourished during 1985 and there is every indication this trend will continue in 1986. During 1985, NGF's Golf Facility Division received almost 750 requests for its 1985 Golf Facility Development packet which explains what is involved in developing a golf course and includes current courses development cost estimates.

Golf course development in the nation during 1985 showed substantial improvement. According to NGF records, 109 new courses opened for play during 1985. While this is 27 fewer courses than reported in 1984, new course construction starts increased to 165 in 1985 - an increase of 20 courses. It is very likely that all new courses opening in 1985 have not yet been reported to NGF. Many golf course architects are so busy they have not had time to inform us of their course openings.

Prospective new course development also increased in 1985 with 140 new course projects currently in planning. There were 131 new projects in 1984. A listing of the leading states involved in 1985 golf course development is shown on the following pages.

The National Golf Foundation's new 1985 program, designed to stimulate the development of public and municipal golf courses in cities and towns throughout the nation that do not meet the Foundation's minimum standards of population per public course, played a very important role in golf facility planning and development throughout the nation in 1985.

What's ahead for 1986? According to the nation's leading economists, the economy is expected to keep growing moderately in 1986 and much less erratically than in 1985. Likewise, the economists agree that corporate profits should increase healthily and that inflation probably will remain modest during 1986. Based on the numerous queries the National Golf Foundation is receiving for assistance in golf course development, 1986 should be an excellent year for the development of all types of golf facilities.

B. Facility Development Summary: 1985

1985		1984	
OPENED FOR PLAY:		**OPENED FOR PLAY:**	
Regulation, New	62	Regulation, New	77
Regulation, Additions	36	Regulation, Additions	40
Executive, New	9	Executive, New	5
Executive, Additions	0	Executive, Additions	10
Par-3, New	1	Par-3, New	2
Par-3, Additions	1	Par-3, Additions	2
TOTAL OPEN	**109**	**TOTAL OPEN**	**136**
CONSTRUCTION STARTS:		**CONSTRUCTION STARTS:**	
Regulation, New	100	Regulation, New	78
Regulation, Additions	52	Regulation, Additions	52
Executive, New	3	Executive, New	9
Executive Additions	6	Executive, Additions	3
Par-3, New	2	Par-3, New	1
Par-3, Additions	2	Par-3, Additions	2
TOTAL CONST. STARTS	**165**	**TOTAL CONST. STARTS**	**145**
PROSPECTS		**PROSPECTS**	
Regulation, New	92	Regulation, New	76
Regulation, Additions	40	Regulation, Additions	36
Executive, New	7	Executive, New	10
Executive, Additions	0	Executive, Additions	3
Par-3, New	1	Par-3, New	5
Par-3, Additions	0	Par-3, Additions	1
TOTAL PROSPECTS	**140**	**TOTAL PROSPECTS**	**131**

C. Golf Facility Development 1985: Leading States

Courses Open For Play

State	Total Courses	New	Additions
Florida	35	22	13
California	12	11	1
Michigan	8	4	4
South Carolina	8	7	1
Arizona	6	3	3
Georgia	5	2	3
Illinois	4	3	1
North Carolina	4	3	1
Colorado	3	2	1
Indiana	3	1	2
Wisconsin	3	1	2
Others (14)	18	13	5
Total	109	72	37

Courses Under Construction

State	Total Courses	New	Additions
Florida	36	23	13
California	19	14	5
Michigan	14	2	12
South Carolina	13	10	3
Illinois	10	6	4
Arizona	9	7	2
Texas	9	5	4
Colorado	6	4	2
Georgia	6	5	1
North Carolina	6	4	2
Wisconsin	6	5	1
Others (17)	31	20	11
Total	165	105	60

C. Golf Facility Development 1985: Leading States (Continued)

Courses In Planning (Prospects)

State	Total Courses	New	Additions
Florida	22	15	7
California	13	13	-
Arizona	9	8	1
North Carolina	9	8	1
Texas	8	4	4
Georgia	7	5	2
Illinois	7	4	3
Michigan	7	5	2
South Carolina	6	1	5
Indiana	5	2	3
Ohio	5	5	-
Others (22)	42	31	11
TOTAL	140	101	39

III. NATIONAL PROFILE

A. Highlights

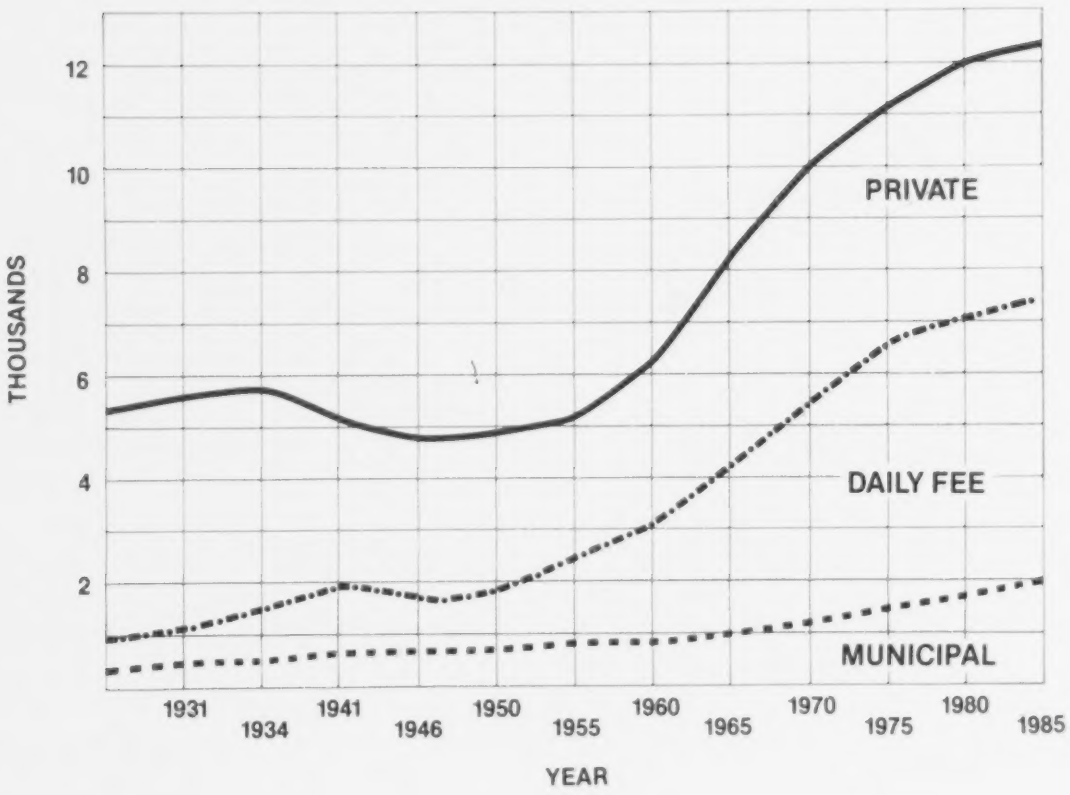
- At the end of 1985, there were 12,346 golf facilities in the U.S.
- There are three types of golf facilities: private, daily fee and municipal. Of the total number of facilities, 39% are private, 45% are daily fee and 16% are municipal.
- There are three types of golf courses: regulation, executive and par 3. Of the total number, 87% are regulation, 6% are executive and 7% are par 3.
- Almost 300 facilities have more than one type of course; regulation, ex-executive and par 3.
- The NGF classifies facilities by size: 9-hole, 18-hole and 27 or more holes. Of the total number of facilities, 43% are 9-hole, 52% are 18-hole, 5% are 27 or more holes.
- Of the 415 million rounds played in 1985: 31% were at private, 42% were at daily fee, and 27% were at municipal facilities.[2]
- Avid golfers, those who played 25 or more times per year, spread out their play: 35% at private, 39% at daily fee and 26% at municipal facilities.[2]
- All other golfers on average play: 19% at private, 53% at daily fee and 28% at municipal facilities.[2]

B. Number of Facilities by Type

Type	Number Facilities	Percent Share
Private	4,861	39%
Daily Fee	5,573	45%
Municipal	1,912	16%
TOTAL	12,346	100%

C. Growth in Facilities

Number of Golf Facilities



Trends

- o Over the past decade, the total number of facilities has grown about nine percent.
- o During the past ten years, municipal facilities have increased by 21 percent compared to daily fee facilities which have increased by 11 percent. Private facilities have grown at the slowest rate of seven percent.
- o Twenty-five years ago, private courses comprised 50 percent of the total number of facilities. In 1985, private courses make up 39 percent of the total number.

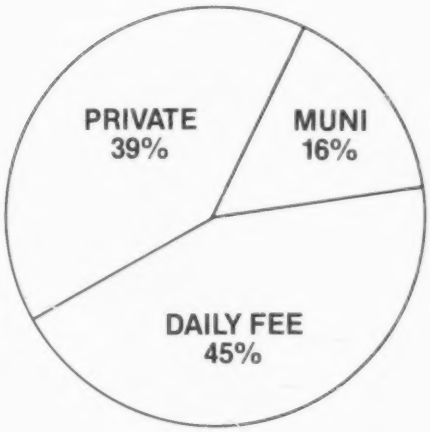
History of Golf Facilities[3]

Year	Facility Total	Private	Daily Fee	Municipal
1931	5,691	4,448	700	543
1934	5,727	4,155	1,006	566
1941	5,209	3,288	1,210	711
1946	4,817	3,018	1,076	723
1950	4,931	3,049	1,141	741
1955	5,218	2,807	1,534	877
1960	6,385	3,236	2,254	895
1965	8,323	3,887	3,368	1,068
1970	10,188	4,619	4,248	1,321
1975	11,370	4,770	5,014	1,586
1980	12,005	4,848	5,340	1,794
1985	12,346	4,861	5,573	1,912

Comparison of Golf Facilities By Type

1931

1985



D. Summary Tables

Facilities By Course Type

TYPE	REGULATION	EXECUTIVE	PAR 3
Private	4,640	150	134
Daily Fee	4,648	518	563
Municipal	1,712	126	151
Total Number[4]	11,000	794	848
Total Percent	87%	6%	7%

Facilities By Number of Holes

TYPE	9 HOLES	18 HOLES	27 HOLES OR MORE
Private	1,789	2,881	254
Daily Fee	2,869	2,639	221
Municipal	808	1,087	94
Total Number[4]	5,466	6,607	569
Total Percent	43%	52%	5%

E. Private, Daily Fee, and Municipal Totals

PRIVATE FACILITIES BY COURSE SIZE
AND NUMBER OF HOLES

COURSE SIZE	9 HOLES	18 HOLES	27 HOLES OR MORE
Regulation	1,578	2,812	250
Executive	98	49	3
Par 3	113	20	1
Total Number	1,789	2,881	254
Total Percent	15%	23%	2%

DAILY FEE FACILITIES BY COURSE SIZE
AND NUMBER OF HOLES

COURSE SIZE	9 HOLES	18 HOLES	27 HOLES OR MORE
Regulation	2,130	2,307	211
Executive	325	187	6
Par 3	414	145	4
Total Number	2,869	2,639	221
Total Percent	23%	21%	2%

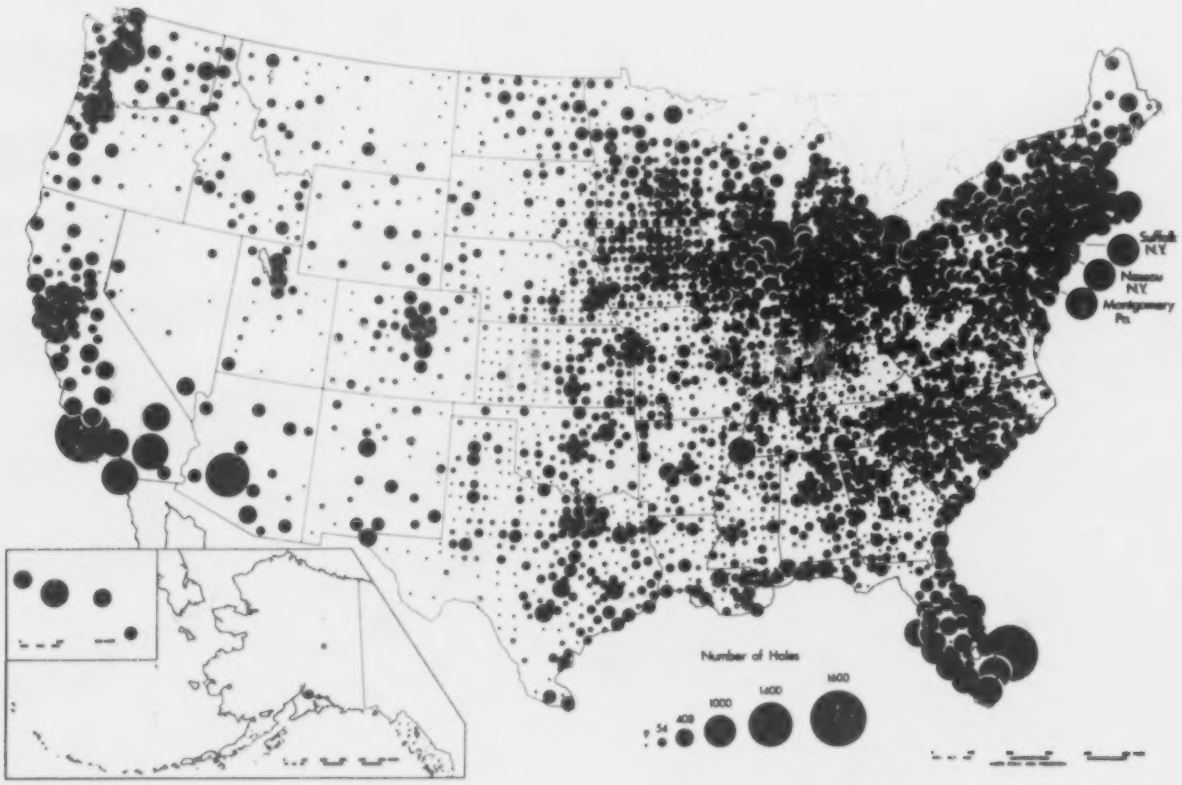
MUNICIPAL FACILITIES BY COURSE SIZE
AND NUMBER OF HOLES

COURSE SIZE	9 HOLES	18 HOLES	27 HOLES OR MORE
Regulation	600	1,108	94
Executive	98	28	0
Par 3	110	41	0
Total Number	808	1,087	94
Total Percent	7%	9%	1%

F. U.S. Golf Holes

- The map below shows the number of golf holes by county in the United States. It indicates areas where golf facilities are concentrated.
- The two leading areas for golf facilities are the vacation spots of South Florida and Southern California.
- Other areas where golf is heavily concentrated are the Great Lakes Area, New England and the Carolinas.
- The Mountain region states have a low concentration of golf facilities.

Number of Golf Holes By County



IV. REGIONAL/STATE PROFILES

A. Highlights

- The East North Central region contains the most golf facilities. This region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. It includes the highest total number of public facilities.

- The South Atlantic region ranks second in total number of facilities. Of the total number of facilities in this region, fifty percent are private.

- Regionally, the fewest number of golf facilities can be found in the Mountain and East South Central regions.

- California has the largest number of golf facilities, 747. The rest of the top five include: New York (730), Florida (699), Michigan (659) and Texas (658).

B. Regional Comparison

Region	Total Facilities	Private Facilities	Daily Fee Facilities	Municipal Facilities
New England	796	253	461	82
Middle Atlantic	1,573	603	792	178
E. North Central	2,607	717	1,504	386
W. North Central	1,557	663	585	309
South Atlantic	2,104	1,013	894	197
E. South Central	739	404	219	116
W. South Central	1,097	602	278	217
Mountain	717	222	280	215
Pacific	1,156	384	560	212
Total	12,346	4,861	5,573	1,912

C. Number of Golf Facilities

GEOGRAPHIC AREA	TOTAL FACILITIES	PRIVATE FACILITIES	DAILY FEE FACILITIES	MUNICIPAL FACILITIES
Connecticut	162	76	53	33
Massachusetts	324	114	174	36
Maine	113	16	90	7
New Hampshire	91	17	71	3
Rhode Island	51	20	28	3
Vermont	55	10	45	0
NEW ENGLAND	796	253	461	82
New Jersey	241	111	89	41
New York	730	258	371	101
Pennsylvania	602	234	332	36
MIDDLE ATLANTIC	1,573	603	792	178
Illinois	565	208	231	126
Indiana	355	103	192	60
Michigan	659	139	447	73
Ohio	650	185	396	69
Wisconsin	378	82	238	58
E. NORTH CENTRAL	2,607	717	1,504	386
Iowa	348	177	119	52
Kansas	227	121	62	44
Minnesota	352	91	193	68
Missouri	256	123	91	42
North Dakota	103	32	28	43
Nebraska	170	74	60	36
South Dakota	101	45	32	24
W. NORTH CENTRAL	1,557	663	585	309
Dist. of Columbia	5	3	0	2
Delaware	22	15	5	2
Florida	699	274	358	67
Georgia	259	161	64	34
Maryland	129	84	20	25
North Carolina	418	192	200	26
South Carolina	239	115	118	6
Virginia	234	128	86	20
West Virginia	99	41	43	15
SOUTH ATLANTIC	2,104	1,013	894	197

C. Number of Golf Facilities (Continued)

GEOGRAPHIC AREA	TOTAL FACILITIES	PRIVATE FACILITIES	DAILY FEE FACILITIES	MUNICIPAL FACILITIES
Alabama	184	112	39	33
Kentucky	206	93	83	30
Mississippi	134	99	22	13
Tennessee	215	100	75	40
E. SOUTH CENTRAL	739	404	219	116
Arkansas	137	93	33	11
Louisiana	134	90	23	21
Oklahoma	168	65	53	50
Texas	658	354	169	135
W. SOUTH CENTRAL	1,097	602	278	217
Arizona	178	61	87	30
Colorado	161	56	48	57
Idaho	78	16	38	24
Montana	68	26	25	17
New Mexico	68	26	18	24
Nevada	39	5	20	14
Utah	80	21	24	35
Wyoming	45	11	20	14
MOUNTAIN	717	222	280	215
Alaska	9	2	6	1
California	747	274	328	145
Hawaii	49	15	27	7
Oregon	142	35	90	17
Washington	209	58	109	42
PACIFIC	1,156	384	560	212
U.S. TOTALS	12,346	4,861	5,573	1,912

D. Per Capita Analysis

GEOGRAPHIC AREA	1980 POPULATION[5]	PER CAPITA RATIOS[6] PRIVATE	PUBLIC	TOTAL	STATE RANKING[7]
Connecticut	3,107.6	2,432	2,398	1,207	23
Massachusetts	5,737.0	3,269	1,986	1,235	24
Maine	1,124.6	5,433	1,041	874	11
New Hampshire	920.6	3,789	993	787	6
Rhode Island	947.2	2,844	2,288	1,268	27
Vermont	511.5	3,552	848	685	3
NEW ENGLAND	12,348.6	3,118	1,713	1,106	-
New Jersey	7,364.8	3,842	3,300	1,775	46
New York	17,558.1	4,205	2,587	1,602	45
Pennsylvania	11,863.9	3,139	2,053	1,241	25
MIDDLE ATLANTIC	36,786.8	3,726	2,486	1,491	-
Illinois	11,426.5	3,617	2,185	1,362	33
Indiana	5,490.2	3,446	1,456	1,024	19
Michigan	9,262.1	4,052	1,182	915	15
Ohio	10,797.6	3,539	1,489	1,048	20
Wisconsin	4,705.8	3,817	1,172	897	14
E. NORTH CENTRAL	41,682.2	3,682	1,483	1,057	-
Iowa	2,913.8	1,513	1,465	744	4
Kansas	2,363.7	1,641	1,889	878	12
Minnesota	4,076.0	3,235	1,221	886	13
Missouri	4,916.7	3,104	2,953	1,513	44
North Dakota	652.7	1,769	954	620	1
Nebraska	1,569.8	1,817	1,491	819	9
South Dakota	690.8	1,421	1,181	645	2
W. NORTH CENTRAL	17,183.5	2,167	1,626	929	-
Dist. of Columbia	638.3	14,185	14,185	7,093	51
Delaware	594.3	2,130	5,080	1,501	43
Florida	9,746.3	1,858	1,303	766	5
Georgia	5,463.1	2,308	3,842	1,442	40
Maryland	4,216.9	2,892	5,714	1,920	47
North Carolina	5,881.8	1,883	1,586	861	10
South Carolina	3,121.8	1,621	1,542	790	7
Virginia	5,346.8	2,640	3,143	1,435	38
West Virginia	1,949.6	3,494	2,434	1,435	39
SOUTH ATLANTIC	36,959.9	2,170	2,049	1,054	-

D. Per Capita Analysis (Continued)

GEOGRAPHIC AREA	1980 POPULATION[5]	PER CAPITA RATIOS[6] PRIVATE	PUBLIC	TOTAL	STATE RANKING[7]
Alabama	3,893.9	2,301	3,795	1,433	37
Kentucky	3,660.8	2,825	2,465	1,316	29
Mississippi	2,520.6	1,959	5,001	1,407	36
Tennessee	4,591.1	3,055	2,788	1,457	41
E. SOUTH CENTRAL	14,666.4	2,538	3,146	1,405	-
Arkansas	2,286.4	1,868	3,849	1,258	26
Louisiana	4,205.9	3,291	6,872	2,225	49
Oklahoma	3,025.3	3,538	2,256	1,378	34
Texas	14,229.2	2,622	3,328	1,467	42
W. SOUTH CENTRAL	23,746.8	2,703	3,481	1,522	-
Arizona	2,718.2	2,436	1,541	944	18
Colorado	2,889.9	3,029	1,889	1,163	22
Idaho	943.9	3,617	1,249	928	16
Montana	786.7	2,428	1,507	930	17
New Mexico	1,302.9	3,217	2,098	1,270	28
Nevada	800.5	9,883	1,560	1,348	31
Utah	1,461.0	4,272	1,933	1,331	30
Wyoming	469.6	2,746	1,159	815	8
MOUNTAIN	11,372.8	3,112	1,656	1,081	-
Alaska	401.9	14,883	4,961	3,721	50
California	23,667.9	4,971	3,199	1,947	48
Hawaii	964.7	3,970	1,531	1,105	21
Oregon	2,633.1	4,796	1,875	1,348	32
Washington	4,132.2	4,546	1,979	1,379	35
PACIFIC	31,799.7	4,900	2,741	1,758	-
U.S. TOTALS	226,545.8	3,028	2,085	1,234	-

FOOTNOTES

1. A golf facility may be defined as one location where one or more golf courses may exist.

2. Data is extracted from the NGF publication, Golf Participation in the United States 1985.

3. 1931 is the earliest year for which golf facility statistics are available. The counts include regulation, executive and par 3 facilities.

4. Totals exceed 12,346 facilities because some facilities have more than one course. For example, a facility could have two regulation 18-hole courses and a executive 9-hole course.

5. The source of the 1980 population data is the U.S. Census Bureau.

6. Per Capita Ratios reflect number of people per golfing hole. It is tabulated from the total number of golf holes per state. Number of holes, as opposed to number of facilities, is used in order to equate facilities of differing sizes.

7. State rankings are based on Total Per Capita Ratios.

DEFINITIONS

FACILITY TYPES:

1. **Private** - A private facility is one which restricts play to members and their guests. Ownership may be held by the members (equity owned) or by an outside interest (non-equity owned).

2. **Daily Fee** - A daily fee facility is a semi-private or "pay as you play" facility. It is owned by private individuals or an outside interest and run as a business. The daily fee facility may sell memberships and also charge daily greens fees to non-members.

3. **Municipal** - A municipal facility is open to the public and is owned by a city, county or state government The golfers support the facility through greens fees and/or season tickets.

COURSE TYPES:

1. **Regulation** - A regulation course is the standard length golf course. Par typically ranges from 69 to 72. Yardage can range from 5,600 to in excess of 7,000 yards. Holes consist of par 3, par 4 and par 5's.

2. **Executive** - An executive or intermediate size course is a shorter version of the regulation course. Par may range from 55 to 68. Lengths can vary from 3,000 to 5,600 yards. It consists mainly of par 3 and par 4's.

3. **Par 3** - An 18-hole par 3 course has 18 par 3 holes and a total par of 54. Yardage may range between 2,000 and 2,500 yards.